

SHOALS BEACON

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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 08E-24-04, Florence, Alabama

March 2009



Photo by Gary Akin

Betty Jackson and Sally Akin talk to BMCS Tony Economy at the Change of Watch. (There is rumor they were trying to arrange a ride on OUACHITA.

24-5 hosts Change of Watch

On January 3, nearly 70 Auxiliarists descended on Carrabas Italian Grill in Huntsville for the Division Change of Watch. Flotilla 24-5 planned and hosted a most enjoyable and well-attended COW.

LCDR Joshua McTaggart (Supervisor, Marine Safety Detachment Nashville), and BMCS Tony Economy (Officer in Charge, CG Cutter OUACHITA) and his wife attended from the gold side. LCDR McTaggart was the speaker.

Auxiliary elected officers attending from outside

the division included District Commodore David Maul and his wife, Division 8 (Paducah) Commander William Husfeld and his wife, and Division 11 (Nashville) Commander Jim Davidson.

District Captain-South Walt Whitacre from 24-6 was present also. Cindy and Troy Bates (Rogersville/ Bay Hill Detachment), Betty and Jim Jackson, John and Myra Finch, and Gary and Sally Akin attended from 24-4.

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Change of Watch held

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In his comments, LCDR McTaggart touched on several topics. He said MSD Nashville now reports directly to Sector rather than MSU Paducah. He reported that effort is under way to elevate Nashville to a Marine Safety Unit, which will bring more people and a command billet to Nashville.

He reported that the CG will begin performing tow-boat inspections, but a date is not yet set. Tow-boat inspections may become an area where the Auxiliary could participate.

He talked about the area his office serves; basically all of the Cumberland River and Tennessee River in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, and the Tenn-Tom



Photo by Gary Akin

From left, Myra & John Finch visit with Cindy & Troy Bates, and Bob Essig at the Change of Watch. Photo by Gary Akin.

Waterway to Bay Springs Dam. He welcomes input from the Auxiliary and maintains an open-door policy.

AUXDATA awards were presented by the division captain and vice captain. 24-4 took home four program awards – 1st in vessel examination, 2nd in member training, and 3rd in public affairs and the RBS visitor program.

The combined work was a good solid performance by the members

of the Flotilla in 2008. Personal awards went to Mike Zacharski (3rd in VEs), Jim Jackson (3rd in MT), and Gary Akin (3rd in PA and 1st in MT). Jim and Betty Jackson received certificates from the chief director recognizing their substantial participation in the RBS program in 2008. Congratulations to one and all!

– Gary Akin, IPFC



Photo by Gary Akin

COMO David Maul watches as LCDR Joshua McTaggart administers the pledge of office to incoming Division Commander Ken Westra and Vice Division Commander John Mabry.



Jim Jackson, Gary Akin, John Finch, and Tracy Shane Kramer pose during ICS 210 training in Birmingham.

Coxswains, trainees complete ICS 210 course

Flotilla 24-04 Coxswains Gary Akin and Jim Jackson along with coxswain trainees John Finch and Tracy Kramer journeyed to Birmingham, January 17th, to complete newly mandated training - ICS 210.

They joined 52 other Auxiliary members, including 12 others from Division 24, as Lt. Todd Peterson, 8th Coast Guard District, taught the intense and fast paced course.

Members Cliff and Kay Klein trekked to Nashville along with more than 60 other auxiliarists from around the region to complete the training on February 21st.

The four-hour class is a shortened version of the course – a collaboration between Homeland Security and the Coast Guard – covering only that portion pertinent to the

Auxiliary.

The Department of Homeland Security has determined that coxswains and aircraft pilots/commanders must complete the Coast Guard presented classroom training prior to 31 March 2009. On or about 31 March 2009 any coxswain who does not have ICS-210 (or ICS-300) recorded on their record in AUXDATA will be flagged as REYR. And they will remain ineligible to receive orders until the requirement is met.

Taking ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 online, makes ICS 210 easier to comprehend.

– John Finch, VFC

Weiss, friends salute Beatles with roof-top event



Times Daily photo by Matt McKean.

Rooftop musicians Mark Sandlin, Randy Summers, Wayne Counts, and drummer David Weiss.

Diversity rises in many forms within the Auxiliary. To commemorate the last public appearance of the Beatles during a roof- top concert in London, England, mid day January 30, 1969, Flotilla 24-4 member David Weiss, and three musician friends (Mark Sandlin, Randy Summers, and Wayne Counts) got together – as a “Cool thing to do” – on the roof of Trowbridge’s Ice Cream Shop in downtown Florence mid day, Friday, January 30, 2009 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the 1969 London event.

David is the drummer and the lead vocalist for the group, which drew a crowd of more than a hundred onlookers who braved the cold temperatures to witness the event.

The concert can be viewed on the web at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5DmNiNt9us>

– John Finch, VFC

Upcoming events

- Mar 5-8 District Spring Conference, Knoxville
- Mar 7 Pickwick Detachment Meeting
- Mar 08- Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar 28 - Tracker Marine for PA/VSC
- Apr 04 - Pickwick Detachment Meeting at Pickwick Deli
- Apr 04 - Rogersville Detachment Meeting at Bay Hill Marina
- Apr 04 - Tracker Marine for PA/VSC
- Apr 04 - VSCs, Bay Hill Marina (tentative)
- Apr 04 - VSCs, Stateline Ramp, Pickwick
- Apr 07 - Flotilla Meeting
- Apr 18 - Jim Bennett Boat Show/Aqua Yacht Harbor Open House, Iuka, MS
- April 25 - ABS Class at Red Bay
- April 25 - VSCs Lock 6, Killen
- May 02 - Board & Staff, Huntsville
- May 02-03 - Pickwick Boat, Home & Travel Show

Member accomplishments

Cindy Bates and John Miller - Received their IT Certification

John and Debbie Miller - Received their RSBPV Certification

Cliff Klein - Completed the Operations Policy and Rules of the Road exams

Gary Akin - Completed ICS 702 and ICS 250

Kay Klein - Completed ICS 200

Jim Jackson, Gary Akin, John Finch, Tracy Kramer, Cliff and Kay Klein - completed ICS 210



Photo by Sally Akin

IPFC Gary Akin and IPFC & VCDR John Mabry share a moment of laughter as Vessel Safety Check performance awards are presented to the top three flotillas. Flotilla 24-4 took top unit VSC honors for 2008.

FLOTILLA 2009 STAFF OFFICERS

Congratulations and thank you to the following Flotilla members who have volunteered to serve as staff officers in 2009:

Del Horton	Flotilla Commander	FC
John Finch	Vice Flotilla Commander	VFC
Gary Akin	Immediate Past FC	IPFC
Gary Akin	Aids to Navigation	FSO-AN
Cliff Klein	Communications	FSO-CM
Gary Akin	Computer Services	FSO-CS
Sally Akin	Finance	FSO-FN
Betty Jackson	Inf. Services	FSO-IS
Jim Jackson	Materials	FSO-MA
Sam Brentnall	Marine Safety & E. Protection	FSO-MS
Jim Jackson	Member Training	FSO-MT
John Finch	Operations	FSO-OP
Ray Styles	Public Affairs	FSO-PA
Bob Stansell	Publications	FSO-PB
Del Horton	Public Education	FSO-PE
Kay Klein	Personnel Services	FSO-PS
Del Horton	Partner Visits	FSO-PV
Kay Klein	Secretary & Records	FSO-SR
	'Zack' Zacharski Vessel Examination	FSO-VE
Cliff Klein	Leader, Pick. Det	FSO-Pickwick DET
Troy Bates	Leader, Rogersville Det	FSO-Rogersville DET



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